

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/03366  
filed on October 10, 2003.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~Prior Art~~      **Field of the Invention**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a piezoelectric actuator, for example for actuating a  
mechanical component such as a valve or the like, ~~according to the features in the preamble to  
the main claim.~~

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] These piezoelectric actuators can be structured in a number of layers, in the form of  
so-called multilayered piezoelectric actuators in which the layers are respectively interleaved  
with the electrodes that are used to apply the electrical voltage. To that end, piezoelectric  
sheets with printed electrode surfaces serving as inner electrodes are stacked in alternation.  
In this design, a sheet has its connection only on a connection side and on ~~[[the]]~~ **its** opposite  
side, must have an edge without an inner electrode and this edge must be provided with an  
insulating space. The two sides are then connected on the outside by means of outer

electrodes. The piezoelectric actuator is thus produced in a known way with a number of plates, much like a capacitor.

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] ~~Advantages of the Invention~~

**SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION**

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] ~~Drawings~~      **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Exemplary embodiments of the piezoelectric actuator according to ~~the invention will be explained~~ **are described more fully herein** below, in conjunction with the drawings, **in which: [[.]]**

Page 6, please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Page 7, please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] Fig. 2 shows a chamfered piezoelectric layer 2, with an inner electrode 3 that is contacted by the outer electrode 5. In the region of the contact of the other inner electrode 4 that can be seen in Fig. 3, on the left side of the piezoelectric actuator 1 according to Fig. 2,

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an angle  $\alpha$  of the chamfered corner with the edge 10 is shown. Since as mentioned above, the edges on the piezoelectric actuator 1, ~~as mentioned above in the introduction to the specification~~, are usually chamfered at an angle  $\alpha$  of  $45^\circ$ , there is therefore an increased danger of short-circuiting at the corner 10.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0029]:

[0030] The foregoing relates to a preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.